



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Emergency Management

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FEMA-1525-DR-VA  
**Commonwealth Situation Report #8**  
**Thursday, July 1, 2004**

### 1. Situation

A system of severe storms began moving through Southwest Virginia on May 24, 2004. Flash flooding occurred on May 24-25 in Tazewell and Russell counties. Tornadoes damaged homes in Lee County on May 28. Flash floods impacted Buchanan County and several other counties in Southwest Virginia over the June 12-15 period. One flood-damaged road, Route 772 in Russell County, remains closed.

On May 25 Governor Warner declared a State of Emergency for Tazewell and Russell Counties and on June 3 expanded the declaration to include Lee County.

On June 2, Governor Warner requested that President Bush issue a major disaster declaration for Lee, Russell and Tazewell counties. He requested federal aid through the Individual Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs.

President Bush granted a Federal Disaster Declaration for Lee, Russell and Tazewell counties on June 15, 2004. ***The Commonwealth's request to add Buchanan County was approved June 29.***

On June 25, 2004, Governor Warner signed the FEMA-Commonwealth Agreement to implement joint recovery programs.

The incident period began on May 24 and ended June 26, 2004.

### 2. Weather Forecast for Russell County and Tazewell County

***Today through Saturday - Partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower to mid 80s, lows in the 60s. Light wind. Chance of rain 30 to 40 percent.***

### 3. Current State/Federal Priorities and Objectives

- ❑ ***Notified legislators, county officials and the media of Buchanan County add-on.***
- ❑ ***Implement Commonwealth Emergency Relief to Localities (CERL) Program.***
- ❑ Notify affected citizens and communities of the availability of federal disaster assistance.
- ❑ Address potential housing and rental resources issues.
- ❑ Implement the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- ❑ Manage public expectations through targeted media releases and contacts with public officials.  
"Working to Protect People, Property and Our Communities"

- Implement Other Needs Assistance (ONA) Program.

#### **4. Recovery Activities**

##### **A. Human Services**

- ***Individual and Household Program***
  - ***Housing Assistance (HA)***
    - ***The FEMA Human Services Staff is coordinating clarification of the Replacement Policy with FEMA Headquarters.***
    - ***A contractor for Russell County removed a trailer from Sword's Creek.***
  - ***Other Needs Assistance (ONA)***
    - ***Processing has begun for applicants eligible to be considered for disaster assistance regarding personal property, medical and dental, transportation, moving & storage, and miscellaneous expenses.***
  - See pages 5 and 6 for statistical information on registrations, activity in the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), Small Business Administration (SBA), and the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC).
- **Volunteer Organizations**
  - ***Representatives of the Mennonite Disaster Services visited the disaster area and have offered to evaluate washed-out private bridges brought to their attention by the FEMA VAL to determine if they could provide the labor to rebuild. A situation investigated in Russell County proved inappropriate for their services.***
  - ***The American Red Cross is coordinating assistance to the family of an NC man who died in Henry County floodwaters.***
- **Disaster Recovery Center**
  - The local recovery task forces in Russell and Tazewell Counties are assisting as requested, and have representatives in the DRC to meet with individuals. ***Two (2) applicants visited with task force representatives.***
  - ***The Buchanan County Recovery Task Force is on standby.***
- **Donations Management**
  - Tazewell and Russell Counties are coordinating distribution of donated goods.
  - Clinch Valley Community Action (CVCA) is providing disaster relief to all local counties at 1161 Second St. in Richlands, Va. Applicants must be referred by FEMA, American Red Cross or VDEM to be eligible.
- **Disaster Unemployment Assistance**
  - Effective June 18, 2004, assistance is available for residents of the declared jurisdictions. Residents can call or visit the nearest Virginia Employment Office. As of ***6/30/04*** no applications have been received for DUA.
- **Mental Health**
  - The Cumberland Mountain Community Service Board is providing mental health assistance for residents of Tazewell and Russell Counties. A representative is in the Richlands DRC.

## **B. Community Relations (CR)**

- *On June 30, one State/Federal CR Team was deployed to Buchanan County to meet with county officials and distribute tele-registration flyers to homes and businesses.*
- *The Federal/State CR team led representatives from the media on a tour of damaged areas in Russell County on June 30.*
- One CR team continues to work Russell & Tazewell Counties distributing flyers contact information and encouraging registration for assistance.
- Teams are assessing unmet and special needs and researching available rental residential units in their assigned jurisdictions.

## **C. Mitigation**

- The FCO & SCO have approved and signed the Mitigation Strategy for FEMA, DR-1525-VA.
- The FCO has submitted a letter to the SCO approving the Administration Plan and Volume 6, Mitigation of the Emergency Operations Plan.
- Development of Bluefield Mitigation Success Stories has progressed:
  - Mitigation staff met with the former Deputy Town Manager June 25 for a tour of the town and its mitigation projects.
  - A meeting was held on June 28, between staff of Mitigation and External Affairs to report on the Bluefield visit and outline three success stories that will focus on residential, commercial and municipal acquisition/demolition projects that were funded through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).
  - *FEMA Mitigation Officer and External Affairs FEMA officer along with the Commonwealth PIO toured Bluefield on July 1 and met with local business owners involved in mitigation in the “old town” business district. The visit will supplement previous information gathered to support development of the success stories.*
- *The DCR (NFIP) program engineer, David Gunn, met with building officials in Russell and Tazewell counties to reinforce the NFIP program provisions for manufactured homes in the floodplain. In anticipation of pending temporary housing by FEMA, Gunn provided ‘Travel Trailer Tips’, which were well received by the local officials. Mr. Gunn also met with the zoning and building officials in Bluefield, Virginia and the Town of Abingdon.*

## **D. Legislative Liaison**

- *Appropriate State Senators and Delegates have been notified of the Buchanan County addition to the Presidential declaration.*

## **E. Hazardous Materials**

- Regional Hazardous Materials Officer is continuing to monitor situations in the area.

## **F. Public Affairs**

- *Media tour was conducted on 6/30 in upper Russell County with Public Affairs and Community Relations officers.*
- *Press Release and follow-up phone calls to radio and television stations regarding Holiday Hours for DRC and FEMA Helpline.*
- Field work in Bluefield for Mitigation “Success Stories” piece.

#### G. Disaster Recovery Task Forces

- The task forces for Russell and Tazewell Counties have representatives in the Richlands DRC.
- The State Coordinator for Local Recovery Task Forces is based at the DRC.
- ***Buchanan County Task Force is coordinating with the LRTF State Coordinator for participation in the Tri-County DRC in Richlands.***

#### H. Miscellaneous Actions:

- VDH (Health) and DEQ (Environmental Quality) in Russell and Tazewell Counties continue to assist citizens with evaluating drinking water safety.
- Tetanus vaccinations remain available from the local health departments.

#### I. State Coordinating Officer

- ***The Deputy SCO contacted the Buchanan County Administrator on June 29 to inform him of the declaration and associated assistance programs, and to notify him of the Community Relations activities scheduled for June 30.***
- ***Staffing adjustments continue; 16 state personnel assigned to recovery activities.***
- Next Commonwealth sit-rep will be ***Tuesday, July 6***, and Tuesdays and Thursdays thereafter.
- DFO will be open M-F (8AM-6PM), Saturdays (8AM-1PM). DFO will be closed Sundays. The DFO will be open on Monday, July 5, (Holiday) with minimum staff.
- Daily contact with local Emergency Management Coordinators and other local officials.

Signed, Mary Camp, Deputy SCO

Authority of Michael M. Cline, State Coordinator  
/s/ Mary Camp, Deputy State Coordinating Officer

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE-DAILY STATUS REPORT  
 FEMA DR-1525VA

COB: *06-30-2004*

*July 1, 2004*

TOTAL REGISTRATIONS	<b>738</b>			
DAILY REGISTRATION	<b>21</b>		DAILY	CUM
		DESIGNATED COUNTIES	<b>17</b>	<b>714</b>
		UNDESIGNATED COUNTIES	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>

INDIVIDUALS & HOUSEHOLDS PROGRAM (IHP) OVERVIEW

Eligibility Rate	<b>76%</b>	Payments Apprv'd	<b>\$713,347.38</b>
Registrations Referred	<b>631</b>	Payments Disb'd	<b>\$705,194.10</b>
Registrations Approved	<b>398</b>		
Registrations Ineligible	<b>100</b>		
Registrations Withdrawn	10		
Registrations Pending	<b>123</b>	IHP Max Awards	<b>29</b>

HOUSING ASSISTANCE (HA)

Eligibility Rate	<b>77%</b>
\$ Amount Apvd	<b>\$713,347.38</b>
\$ Amount Disbursed	<b>\$705,194.10</b>
Referrals	<b>623</b>
Approved	<b>398</b>
Ineligible	<b>98</b>
Withdrawn	10
Pending HA Categories	<b>117</b>

OTHER NEEDS ASSISTANCE (ONA)

Eligibility Rate	0%
\$ Amount Apvd	\$0.00
\$ Amount Disbursed	\$0.00
Referrals	<b>238</b>
Approved	0
Ineligible	<b>38</b>
Withdrawn	4
Pending ONA Categories	<b>196</b>

INSPECTION SERVICES (IS)

Inspections Issued	<b>635</b>
Returned to FEMA	<b>556</b>
Outstanding	<b>79</b>
Inspectors in the Field	<b>5</b>
Turnaround Time	<b>01.07.15</b>
QC Inspections	34
% Of Inspections Completed	<b>88%</b>

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

Home App. Issued	<b>333</b>
Business App. Issued	<b>54</b>
EIDL	0
Total App. Issued	<b>387</b>
Approved	<b>1</b>
Pending	<b>36</b>
Total \$ Approved	<b>3200</b>

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS		OPEN	CLOSED	TODAY	CUMULATIVE
TAZEWELL (RICHLANDS)	FIXED	6/21/2004		<i>13</i>	<i>227</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b><i>13</i></b>	<b><i>227</i></b>

DESIGNATED COUNTIES	DAILY	CUMULATIVE
<i>BUCHANAN (COUNTY)</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>65</i>
LEE (COUNTY)	<i>2</i>	<i>85</i>
RUSSELL (COUNTY)	<i>5</i>	<i>285</i>
TAZEWELL (COUNTY)	<i>5</i>	<i>279</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><i>17</i></b>	<b><i>714</i></b>

UNDESIGNATED COUNTIES	DAILY	CUMULATIVE
AUGUSTA (COUNTY)	0	1
DICKENSON (COUNTY)	0	<i>2</i>
DINWIDDIE (COUNTY)	0	1
<i>HANOVER (COUNTY)</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
HENRY (COUNTY)	0	1
JEFFERSON (COUNTY)	0	1
PAGE (COUNTY)	0	1
SCOTT (COUNTY)	0	1
<i>SMYTH (COUNTY)</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
SOUTHAMPTON (COUNTY)	0	1
WASHINGTON (COUNTY)	0	4
WISE (COUNTY)	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><i>2</i></b>	<b><i>17</i></b>